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SOURCE Aussenhandels Nachrichten.DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SLOVAK CEMENT INDUSTRY

The industrialization of Slovakia has brought increased needs for building materials and particularly cement. This situation has made it necessary to increase the productivity of cement factories and to extend their production to cover new types of cement. Previously, only Portland and ordinary cements were produced in Czechoslovakia. A short time ago, production of foundry cement was begun.

There is a particular need for a cement which will harden at low temperatures, intended for construction of reservoirs and dams in the central and eastern parts of Slovakia. In an attempt to meet the need, Slovak cement factories are now experimenting with sulfuric acid from cellulose factories. The addition of caustics makes it easier to grind raw materials and also improves properties of the cement.

Another project calls for more intensive use of pumice for the production of so-called pumice cement. The advantages of this type of cement (70 percent tile clinkers and 30 percent pumice) is recognized by experts, who emphasize the excellent qualities of Slovak raw materials. Activated pumice added to the cement improves its hardness. A program of activating pumice in large quantities and initiating the mass production of cement by means of the addition of pumice has now been started.

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- 1 -

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